

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 216003

43/61

ORIGIN EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-02 EB-03 SCA-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AGR-03 VO-01 SAJ-01

/057 R

66602

DRAFTED BY: EUR/SOV:MKOVNER

APPROVED BY: EUR:JAARMITAGE

----- 014796

P 020040Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 216003

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSION LINE 4, PARA 1.B)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EAGR UR US

SUBJ: DENIAL OF ENTRY VISA FOR MILTON KOVNER

FOR CHARGE

1. ON OCTOBER 31, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WHICH HAS BEEN HANDLING VISA APPLICATIONS FOR US MEMBERS OF FORTH-COMING MOSCOW MEETING OF US-USSR JOINT COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE, INFORMED US THAT VISA HAD BEEN DENIED FOR MILTON KOVNER, STATE DEPARTMENT MEMBER OF JOINT COMMITTEE. ON AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 1, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE CALLED IN MINISTER-COUNSELOR VORONTSOV AND MADE STATEMENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. ACTION IN DENYING VISA FOR KOVNER, STATE DEPARTMENT MEMBER OF JOINT COMMITTEE, HARDLY AUSPICIOUS BEGINNING FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 216003

ENDEAVOR IN WHICH BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE EXPRESSED GREAT

INTEREST;

B. IN CONSIDERING APPLICATIONS FOR VISAS FOR SOVIET OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS, WE HAVE, ESPECIALLY OVER PAST 18 MONTHS, FOLLOWED FORTHCOMING PRACTICE IN ISSUING VISAS, EVEN WHEN IN SOME INSTANCES VISAS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR OTHER PURPOSES. WE CONSIDER THIS AN APPROPRIATE POLICY FOR GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE TRYING TO IMPROVE CONTACTS AND RELATIONS.

C. PRESUMABLY, ACTION RELATED TO KOVNER EXPULSION FROM EMBASSY MOSCOW IN AUGUST 1969 -- AN ACTION WHICH WAS THEN DESCRIBED BY MFA OFFICIALS AS PURELY RETALIATORY IN NATURE AND NOT IMPLYING THAT KOVNER HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN ANY ACTIVITIES INCOMPATIBLE WITH HIS DIPLOMATIC STATUS. THESE OFFICIALS INDICATED THEN THAT ACTION WOULD NOT PERMANENTLY BAR KOVNER FROM RETURNING TO USSR;

D. AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SOV, KOVNER IS KEY DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR ENCOURAGING AND FACILITATING DEVELOPMENT OF US-SOVIET ECONOMIC RELATIONS -- THE IMPORTANCE OF WHICH HAS BEEN STRESSED OFTEN BY SOVIET LEADERS AND TO WHICH THIS DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED. WE HAVE FEW PEOPLE IN DEPARTMENT AS WELL QUALIFIED AS KOVNER TO CARRY ON THIS IMPORTANT WORK. SENIOR OFFICIALS IN DEPARTMENT STRONGLY RELY ON HIM FOR HELP IN THIS IMPORTANT AREA OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. IT INCONCEIVABLE THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD WISH TO HAMPER HIM IN ANY WAY IN THE IMPORTANT WORK HE IS DOING;

E. KOVNER PARTICIPATED IN RECENT MEETING OF US-SOVIET JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION IN MOSCOW WHERE HE PLAYED POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE. WE HAD INTENDED THAT HE MAKE SIMILAR CONTRIBUTION TO WORK OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. INABILITY KOVNER TO ATTEND THIS MEETING WILL IMPAIR THE SERIOUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE WORK WE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH THERE;

F. DENIAL OF KOVNER VISA HARDLY CONDUCTIVE TO TASK OF IMPROVING ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH USSR IN WHICH DEPARTMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 216003

OF STATE IS VERY MUCH INVOLVED. WE URGE THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT RECONSIDER THIS ACTION WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY NOT IN INTEREST OF EITHER OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

2. VORONTSOV SAID THAT HE WOULD OF COURSE RELAY OUR POSITION TO MOSCOW, BUT THAT HE COULD NOT BE OPTIMISTIC. HE SAID THAT WHEN SOVIET EMBASSY ISSUED VISA TO KOVNER TO PARTICIPATE IN SHULTZ TRIP, MFA HAD REPRIMANDED EMBASSY

AND ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO WITHDRAW VISA. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, PERSUADED MFA TO LET VISA STAND AS ONE-TIME EXCEPTION, SO AS NOT TO IMPLY DISRESPECT FOR SECRETARY SHULTZ. UNDER QUESTIONING, VORONTSOV STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAD AGAINST KOVNER, OR WHY MFA TOOK THE POSITION IT HAD REGARDING VISA ISSUANCE, BUT HE PRESUMED IT RELATED TO THE 1969 EXPULSION. ARMITAGE REQUESTED THAT HE BRING OUR STRONG FEELINGS ON THIS MATTER TO AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN'S ATTENTION AND VORONTSOV AGREED TO DO SO.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT CHARGE REINFORCE DEPARTMENT CONCERN IN THIS MATTER BY MAKING STRONG REPRESENTATION TO KORNIYENKO ON NOVEMBER 2 ALONG SIMILAR LINES. TEXT OF MOSCOW 4043 OF AUGUST 6, 1969, BEING REPEATED SEPTEL FOR YOUR INFORMATION. KISSINGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE216003
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/SOV:MKOVNER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731158/aaaabqoc.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Sep-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DENIAL OF ENTRY VISA FOR MILTON KOVNER FOR CHARGE
TAGS: PFOR, EAGR, UR, US
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005